



ARIZONA MILITARY REGIONAL COMPATIBILITY PROJECT

WESTERN MARICOPA COUNTY/LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

Project Update # 7, January 20, 2003

The Western Maricopa County/Luke Air Force Base component of the Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project is an effort to identify permanent resolutions to land use compatibility issues around Luke Air Force Base through collaborative effort and strong implementation. This update is one of a series that will be distributed throughout the project to keep stakeholders and other interested parties up to date on project progress.

WEST VALLEY & LUKE REGIONAL LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLAN OPEN HOUSE II

The Arizona Department of Commerce hosted a second open house on December 14, 2002, at Countryside Elementary School in Surprise, Arizona to introduce the Draft Regional Compatibility Plan to stakeholders. This open house provided an opportunity for the Department of Commerce to collect initial public comments on the Draft Plan and for the participants to discuss the strategies with the consultant team, Luke Air Force Base staff, and the various communities represented. The Draft Regional Compatibility Plan released in early December is a direct reflection of stakeholder participation and the wide range of opinions regarding the project in existence today.

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS -- INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

The Arizona Department of Commerce hosted six interest group meetings on December 16, 17, and 18, 2002, at the Goodyear City Hall in Goodyear, Arizona with over 125 participants. The open house and interest group meetings resulted in four days of project filtration to determine those strategies that are feasible, strategies requiring modification, potential new strategies, and those that must be eliminated. The meetings gave participants the opportunity to discuss the strategies outlined in the Draft Regional Compatibility Plan with the planning team. Dialogue was open, frank, and productive. The process was successful. Clear areas of consent from varying stakeholders became apparent, and areas requiring further consideration were identified. The public input stage of the project requires a focus on the process that will lead to a feasible and implementable product.

The interest group meetings were attended by interested citizens, homebuilders, developers, landowners, attorneys, jurisdictional staff, agency decision makers, the business community, Luke Air Force Base, and others. Each meeting included an overview of the Draft Regional Compatibility Plan, a review of issues of importance to each specific interest group, an open dialogue in which participants voiced their opinions, and a recap session that concluded each meeting. The results of the meeting were summarized in an executive summary and matrix that was emailed to participants and posted on the Department of Commerce Web Site: www.azcommerce.com/CommunityPlanning/Compatibility.

Of the 32 active strategies brought forth in the Draft Plan, the specific determinations identified below were achieved through stakeholder consent during the filtration process:

Strategies To Be Removed From Plan:

- Moratorium on New Home Construction
- Reference to Land Use Compatibility Areas (LUCAs) 1, 2, and 3
- Establish a Joint Regional Powers Authority
- State Legislation for the Preemption of Zoning Controls
- Redevelop Luke Air Force Base as a Joint Use Facility
- Modify Flight Approaches from the North

As the Regional Compatibility Project proceeds, strategies will continue to be refined, and new strategies will be put forth for consideration as directed by stakeholders during the filtration process. Examples of new strategies suggested include but are not limited to preserving air access corridors from Luke Air Force Base to the Barry M. Goldwater Range and expanding the public notification area to include overflight tracks. The Final Regional Compatibility Plan will also include a land use plan for the area within the noise and accident potential zones, expansion of the land valuation methodology currently contained within an appendix to the Draft Plan, and economic impact highlights related to Luke Air Force Base from the *Economic Impact of Arizona's Principal Military Operations* study (prepared by The Maguire Company in collaboration with ESI Corporation).

Following the December public meetings and the release of the Executive Summary, the project team continues to receive a wide range of comments and input. It is interesting to note that approximately half of those who provided comments emphasized how unacceptable a temporary moratorium or joint regional powers authority would be as an implementation strategy. The other half are disturbed that these items were removed, since they felt those approaches were the only ones strong enough to ensure the preservation of Luke's mission and ultimately mitigate encroachment.

The Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project continues to progress full speed ahead with a great deal of support from a vast number of stakeholders. As a point of clarification, cancellation of the Luke Air Force Base component of this critical statewide endeavor has never been considered. The State of Arizona will move forward in its leadership and neutral convener role, providing opportunities for differing opinions to be voiced and working towards the preservation of our military assets in a collaborative manner.

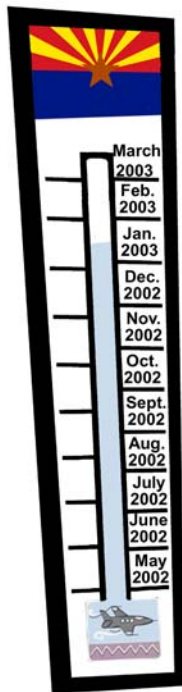
COMMERCE RECEIVES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GRANT

The Community Planning Division of the Arizona Department of Commerce has received a grant of \$439,900 from the U.S. Defense Department Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to further engage in a Strategic Encroachment and Land Use Compatibility Project designed to balance population growth and development with the military missions based in Arizona.

The grant will allow the state to use the OEA Joint Land Use (JLUS) process to explore sustainable solutions to the encroachment issues around Luke Air Force Base Auxiliary 1 Airfield; Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson; the Barry M. Goldwater Range, including the Gila Bend Auxiliary Airfield in the Interstate 8 corridor between Yuma and Tucson; and live ordnance aircraft access routes/flight corridors to Arizona ranges across the state.

Already acknowledged by both the Pentagon and the National Governors Association for work on encroachment issues through legislative efforts, the state expects to produce a Policy Guidebook of examples, lessons learned and policy recommendations to aid communities nationwide in similar circumstances.

NEXT STEPS



Final Document

Stakeholder Presentation

Modify Draft Plan

Collect Comments on Draft Plan

Interest Group Meetings

West Valley & Luke Regional

Land Use Open House II

Draft Plan Document

Prepare Draft Plan Document

West Valley & Luke Regional

Land Use Open House

Data Collection &
Issue Identification

January 27, 2003: Deadline to Submit Comments on the Draft Regional Compatibility Plan. Please provide all comments regarding the Draft Regional Compatibility Plan either in writing or electronically no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2003, to:

PARSONS

c/o Tracey Ferguson
2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 330
Sacramento, CA 95825

or

AMARCP.Parsons@parsons.com

January – February 2003: Modify Draft Regional Compatibility Plan. The project team will continue to update and modify the Draft Plan based on discussions and comments received.

March 21, 2003: Stakeholder Presentation. The Arizona Department of Commerce will host a stakeholder presentation on the Final Western Maricopa County/Luke Air Force Base

Regional Compatibility Plan. The stakeholder presentation is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Glendale Main Public Library on Brown Street. The Draft Final Plan will be released approximately two weeks prior to the stakeholder presentation.

Spring 2003: Release Final Regional Compatibility Plan. After considering the comments and discussions from the December open house and interest group meetings, and the March stakeholder presentation, the Arizona Department of Commerce will release the Final Western Maricopa County/Luke Air Force Base Regional Compatibility Plan.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT

To find information, provide feedback, or ask questions, please visit the project web site via www.azcommerce.com, or contact Deb Sydenham, AICP, Director, Community Planning Office, Arizona Department of Commerce at (602) 280-8114 or debs@azcommerce.com.